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Approved For Release 2003/11/25 : CIA-RDP69B00041R000800010018-1

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CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

DATE

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TO

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SUBJ: EVALUATION OF BLACK SHIELD MISSION BX6725

1. CAMERA TYPE 1 (115A), UNIT C WAS USED ON MISSION BX6725. THE MISSION, WHICH CONTAINED 1,036 TITLED FRAMES, WAS PROCESSED IN THE FIELD.

2. BOTH CAMERAS OPERATED SATISFACTORILY THROUGHOUT THE MISSION; HOWEVER, THE AFT CAMERA IMAGERY APPEARS SLIGHTLY BETTER IN RESOLUTION THAN THE FORWARD. IN THOSE PORTIONS OF THE MISSION WHERE THE VEHICLE WAS IN STRAIGHT AND LEVEL FLIGHT AND THE CAMERA WAS UNCAGED, ESTIMATED GROUND RESOLUTIONS (BAR PLUS SPACE) OF 18 INCHES WERE ACHIEVED ON THE AFT CAMERA MATERIAL. SOME OF THE IMAGERY IS COMPARABLE TO THE BEST ACHIEVED BY THE SYSTEM. THE BEST RESOLUTION ACHIEVED BY THE FORWARD CAMERA WAS ESTIMATED TO BE 20 TO 22 INCHES. ALL THE ACQUISITIONS FROM THE FWD APPEAR TO BE SLIGHTLY OUT-OF-FOCUS. RESOLUTION STATEMENTS REFER TO IMAGERY IN THE NEAR VERTICAL PORTION OF THE FRAME.

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GROUP 1
EXCLUDED FROM AUTO-
MATIC DOWNGRADING

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3. NO IMAGE SMEAR WAS NOTED EXCEPT FOR THAT NORMALLY ASSOCIATED WITH VEHICLE MANEUVERING.

4. THE FIRST 506 FRAMES WERE EXPOSED AT 1/190 OF A SECOND AND THE EXPOSURE APPEARS GOOD. THE REST OF THE MISSION WAS EXPOSED AT 1/170. THE DENSITY OF THE ORIGINAL NEGATIVES THAT WERE EXPOSED AT 1/170 OF A SECOND IS GENERALLY THIN AND IT IS APPARENT THAT THE INCREASE IN EXPOSURE DID NOT COMPENSATE FOR THE CHANGE IN SOLAR AZIMUTH. THE BASE PLUS FOG LEVEL IS SLIGHTLY HIGH THROUGHOUT THE MISSION.

5. IMC SHUTTLE MOTION CAUSES THE TIME TRACK TO RUN OFF THE FILM DURING THE LAST 1.5 INCHES OF SCAN ON MOST OF THE FORWARD FRAMES IN THE MISSION.

6. FILM METERING IS GOOD THROUGHOUT THE MISSION. THE DATA BLOCK ENCROACHES INTO THE FORWARD CAMERA IMAGE AREA EVERY FOURTH FORWARD FRAME. IT IS ASSOCIATED WITH THE SCANNER CYCLE AND CAUSES MINOR IMAGE DEGRADATION.

7. A GOOD CORRELATION WAS ACHIEVED BETWEEN THE INS AND THE FILM. THE DATA BLOCK HELD A FOUR SECOND BIAS IN TIME AND A ONE MINUTE BIAS IN LONGITUDE THROUGHOUT.

8. A COMPARISON OF SIMILAR IMAGERY WAS MADE BETWEEN THE FIELD POSITIVE (PRIORITY ZERO) AND THE OTHER POSITIVES. NO LOSS OF INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION IS APPARENT.

9. CLOUDS OBSCURE NEARLY 50 PERCENT OF THE MISSION.

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